

We claim:

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1. A protective cover for lengths of material used in environments in which said lengths of material are subjected to abrasion, chemicals, and/or weather extremes, said protective cover comprising a sleeve surrounding said length of material, said sleeve having open ends and formed of a fabric made substantially of high strength yarn.

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2. The protective cover of Claim 1 wherein said fabric is formed from at least 70 percent high-strength yarns.

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3. The protective cover of Claim 1 wherein said fabric has a weight of between about 5 and 8 ounces per square yard.

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4. The protective cover of Claim 1 wherein said fabric is resistant to petroleum-based products.

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5. The protective cover of Claim 1 wherein said high strength yarn is selected from the group consisting of long chain extended polyethylenes, high strength aramids, liquid crystal polymers, and combinations thereof.

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6. The protective cover of Claim 5 wherein said high strength yarns are about 400 to 1000 denier.

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7. The protective cover of Claim 6 wherein said fabric has a warp and fill density of between about 30 and 36 ends per inch.

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8. The protective cover of Claim 1 wherein said sleeve is formed as an elongated sheet having opposed longitudinal edges, said opposed longitudinal edges including means releasably attaching said opposed longitudinal edges together around the length of said material.

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9. The protection cover of Claim 8 wherein said means for fastening said opposed longitudinal edges comprises hook and loop material.

10. The protective cover of Claim 1 wherein said sleeve is formed as a plurality of bands, each band comprising a short length of said fabric, said bands being spaced apart along the length of said material.

5 11. The protective cover of Claim 10 wherein each of said bands is formed as a short length of fabric having opposed longitudinal edges, said opposed longitudinal edges including means for fastening said opposed longitudinal edges together around the length of said material.

10 12. The protection cover of Claim 11 wherein said means for fastening said opposed longitudinal edges comprises hook and loop material.

15 13. The protective cover of Claim 1 further including a hood formed of the same fabric as said sleeve and fastened to at least one end of said sleeve for protecting an exposed end of said length of material.

20 14. A protective cover for lengths of material such as ropes and the like used in environments in which said lengths of material are subjected to abrasion, chemicals, and/or weather extremes, said protective cover comprising a sleeve surrounding said length of material, said sleeve having open ends and formed of a fabric made substantially of high strength yarn.

25 15. The protective cover of Claim 14 wherein said fabric is formed from at least 70 percent high-strength yarns.

16. The protective cover of Claim 14 wherein said fabric has a weight of between about 5 and 8 ounces per square yard.

30 17. The protective cover of Claim 14 wherein said fabric is resistant to petroleum-based products.

18. The protective cover of Claim 14 wherein said high strength yarn is selected from the group consisting of long chain extended polyethylenes, high strength aramids, liquid crystal polymers, and combinations thereof.

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19. The protective cover of Claim 18 wherein said high strength yarns are about 400 to 1000 denier.

5 20. The protective cover of Claim 19 wherein said fabric has a warp and fill density of between about 30 and 36 ends per inch.

10 21. The protective cover of Claim 14 wherein said sleeve is formed as an elongated sheet having opposed longitudinal edges, said opposed longitudinal edges including means releasably attaching said opposed longitudinal edges together around the length of said material.

15 22. The protection cover of Claim 21 wherein said means for fastening said opposed longitudinal edges comprises hook and loop material.

23. The protective cover of Claim 14 wherein said sleeve is formed as a plurality of bands, each band comprising a short length of said fabric, said bands being spaced apart along the length of said material.

20 24. The protective cover of Claim 23 wherein each of said bands is formed as a short length of fabric having opposed longitudinal edges, said opposed longitudinal edges including means for fastening said opposed longitudinal edges together around the length of said material.

25 25. The protection cover of Claim 24 wherein said means for fastening said opposed longitudinal edges comprises hook and loop material.

30 26. The protective cover of Claim 14 further including a hood formed of the same fabric as said sleeve and fastened to at least one end of said sleeve for protecting an exposed end of said length of material.

27. An abrasion-resistant protective cover system, comprising:  
(a) a length of material of the type that must be periodically moved or pulled across abrasive surfaces; and

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(b) a protective sleeve surrounding said length of material and formed from a fabric made substantially of high performance yarn, having open ends, wherein said sleeve protects said length of material from abrasion and wear thereof.

5 28. The system of Claim 27 wherein said fabric is formed from at least 70 percent high-strength yarns.

29. The system of Claim 27 wherein said fabric has a weight of between about 5 and 8 ounces per square yard.

10 30. The system of Claim 27 wherein said fabric is resistant to petroleum-based products.

15 31. The system of Claim 27 wherein said high strength yarn is selected from the group consisting of long chain polyethylenes, high strength aramids, liquid crystal polymers, and combinations thereof.

32. The system of Claim 31 wherein said high strength yarns are about 400 to 1000 denier.

20 33. The system of Claim 32 wherein said fabric has a warp and fill density of between about 30 and 36 ends per inch.

25 34. The system of Claim 27 wherein said sleeve is formed as an elongated sheet having opposed longitudinal edges, said opposed longitudinal edges including means for releasably attaching said opposed longitudinal edges together around the length of said material.

35. The system of Claim 34 further including means for securing said open ends of the sleeve to said length of material.

30 36. The system of Claim 27 wherein said sleeve is formed as a plurality of bands, each band comprising a short length of said fabric, said bands being spaced apart along the length of a material to be protected.

37. The system of Claim 36 wherein each of said bands is formed as a short length of fabric having opposed longitudinal edges, said opposed longitudinal edges including means for fastening said opposed longitudinal edges together around the length of a material to be protected.

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38. The system of Claim 37 wherein said means for fastening said opposed longitudinal edges comprises hook and loop material.

39. The system of Claim 27 further including a hood formed of the same fabric as said sleeve and fastened to at least one end of said sleeve for protecting an exposed end of said length of material.

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40. An abrasion-resistant rope of the type that must be periodically moved or pulled across abrasive services comprising an outer protective layer formed substantially from high performance yarns.

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